

Remarks

Claims 1-7 were pending. Claims 3-6 have been withdrawn from consideration based on the previous election of December 21, 2007 and are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 7 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification, *inter alia*, at page 14, line 22 – page 17, line 26, and Figs. 1, 5, and 8.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 2, and 7 are now pending.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and passage of the claims to allowance.

Telephonic Interview of July 7, 2009

On July 7, 2009, the undersigned conducted a constructive telephonic interview with Examiner Patel and Primary Examiner Ghassem to discuss the outstanding rejection and the Mansfield reference. Applicants suggested a claim amendment that is reflected in the amendments made above. Applicants thank Examiners Patel and Ghassem for their comments and suggestions.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mansfield (US 5,838,850). Applicants respond as follows.

Applicants' previous remarks regarding the Mansfield reference are incorporated by reference herein.

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejections, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7. Applicants respectfully submit that Mansfield does not disclose "an auxiliary support section pivotably disposed on one of the base and a cover section and provided separate from the clamp sections and movable relative to said base section independently of said blade section and said pusher section." The recited structure is not present in Mansfield. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Mansfield does not anticipate claims 1, 2, and 7 for at least these reasons.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 7 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mansfield has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. Please contact the undersigned should there be any questions or in order to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

July 7, 2009
Date

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